

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/961,423

Applicant(s)

SOHMA ET AL.

Examiner

Art Unit

Marc R. Filipczyk

2163

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/10/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-23.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

Response to Amendment

This action is responsive to Applicant's response filed on November 10, 2005 wherein amended claims 1-23 are pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Amended claims 1-23 are allowable over the prior art of record, renumbered as claims 1-23, respectively.

The following is an Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20 are allowable because the prior art of record or that encountered in searching for the invention, fails to disclose or suggest a user selecting a type of content from a plurality of types of content prepared in advance for a managed data, each type of content displaying a group of candidates of meta data, changing a display of a group of candidates of meta data in response to a change of the selected type of content of the managed data by the user, and appending selected meta data to a selected managed data by an association between the selected meta data and the selected managed data, as claimed in addition to the other claim provisions.

Further, in claims 1 and 17, Applicant has invoked 35 U.S.C. 112, 6th par., by using means plus function elements. Thus, claims 1 and 17 are in particular interpreted in view of the specification, specifically figure 7 and associated text. Claims 9, 10, 19 and 20 are interpreted in a similar way in view of the specification as claims 1 and 17. Finally, program claims 10 and 20 at least pass the test for a tangible result as required under 35 U.S.C. 101 by saving an association between selected meta data and selected managed data.

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Claims 2-8, 11-16, 18, and 21-23 depend from claims 1, 9, 10, 17, 19 and 20 respectively, and are therefore allowable.

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The following patents are cited to illustrate the state of art with respect to appending meta data to data:

U.S. Patent No. 5,920,856 of Syeda-Mahmood

U.S. Patent No. 6,910,049 of Fenton et al.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marc R. Filipczyk whose telephone number is (571) 272-4019. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri, 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Safet Metjahic can be reached on (571) 272-4023. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

MF
January 27, 2006


FRANTZ GOOBY
PRIMARY EXAMINER